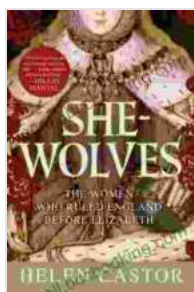


# The Women Who Ruled England Before Elizabeth

Before Elizabeth I ascended to the throne in 1558, England had a rich history of powerful and influential women. From Matilda, who defied the odds to become England's first crowned empress, to Eleanor of Aquitaine, who was one of the most influential figures of the Middle Ages, these women played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's destiny.



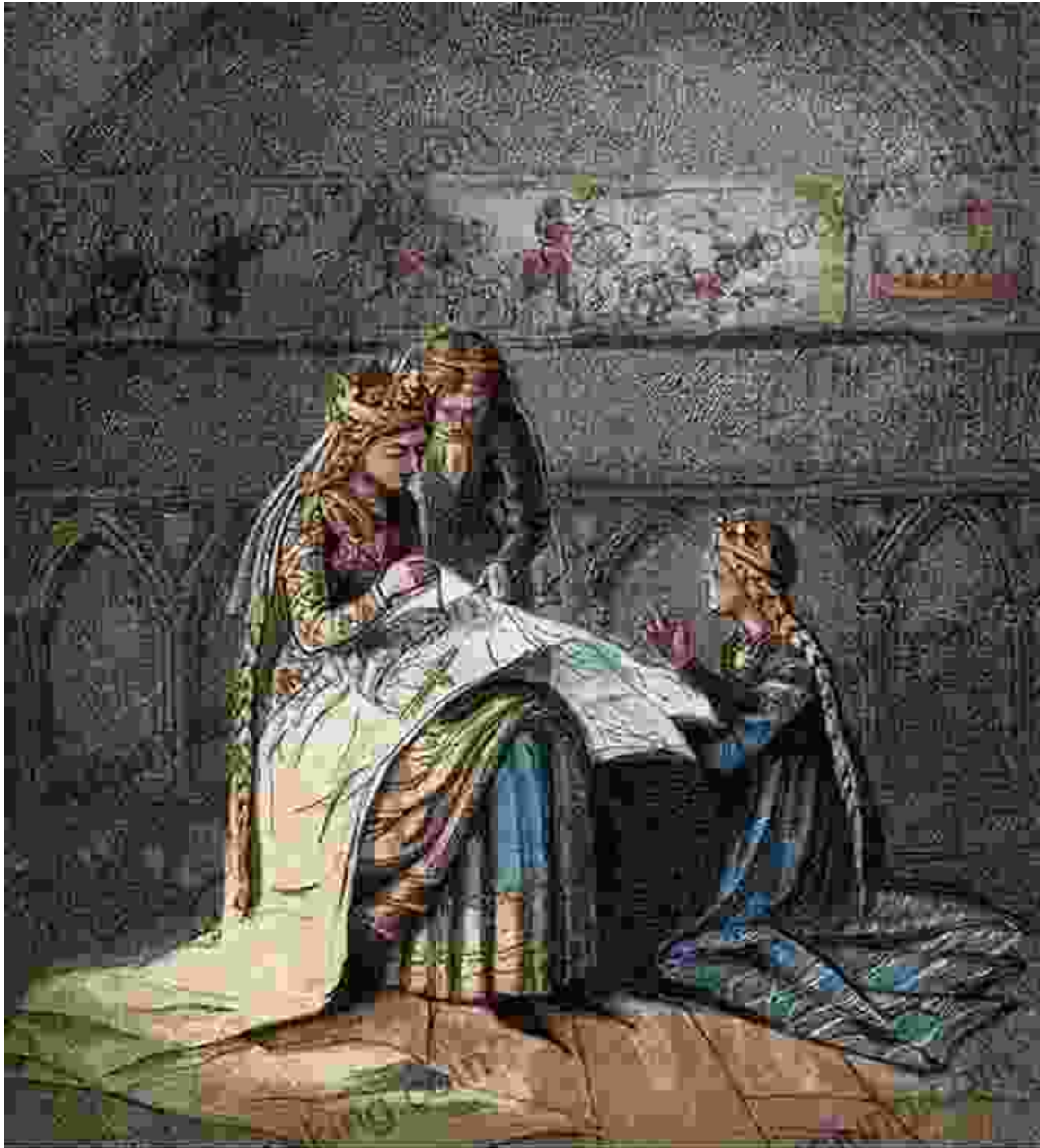
## She-Wolves: The Women Who Ruled England Before Elizabeth by Helen Castor

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3472 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 491 pages



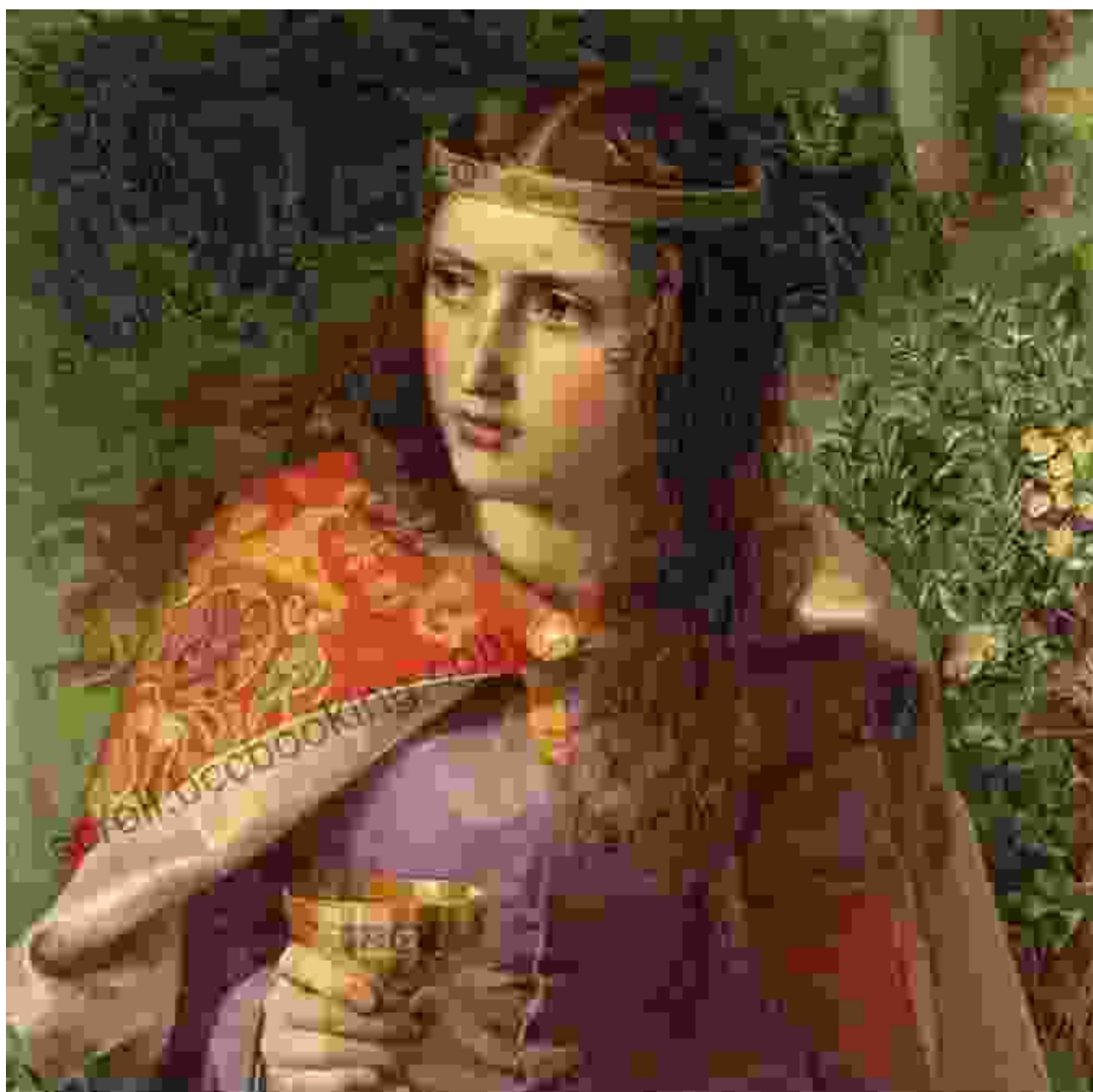
## Matilda: The Empress Who Never Reigned



Matilda, the daughter of King Henry I, was a formidable figure who defied the odds to become England's first crowned empress. After her father died in 1135, she inherited the English throne, but her claim was disputed by her cousin, Stephen of Blois. The ensuing civil war, known as the Anarchy, plunged England into chaos.

Despite the challenges she faced, Matilda was a skilled military strategist and a capable ruler. She rallied her supporters and fought valiantly against Stephen's forces. However, after years of bloodshed, she was forced to acknowledge Stephen's claim to the throne. Matilda retreated to Normandy, where she spent the rest of her life in exile.

### **Eleanor of Aquitaine: The Queen of Two Kingdoms**



## Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of France and England

Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most influential women of the Middle Ages. She was the Queen of France from 1137 to 1152, and the Queen of England from 1154 to 1189. Eleanor was a powerful and independent woman who played a major role in the politics of both kingdoms.

Eleanor was also a great patron of the arts and learning. She was responsible for the construction of several castles and abbeys, and she encouraged the development of literature and music. Eleanor's court was a center of cultural activity, and she played a significant role in the development of the English language.

### **The Plantaganet Queens**

The Plantaganet dynasty, which ruled England from 1154 to 1485, saw the rise of several powerful queens. Among them were Eleanor of Aquitaine's great-granddaughter, Eleanor of Provence, who was the Queen of England from 1236 to 1272. Eleanor was a strong and capable ruler who played a major role in her husband's reign.

Another notable Plantaganet queen was Margaret of Anjou, who was the Queen of England from 1445 to 1461. Margaret was a fierce and determined woman who fought valiantly against the Yorkists in the Wars of the Roses. However, her efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, and she was forced to flee England with her son, Edward of Lancaster.

### **The Forgotten Queens**

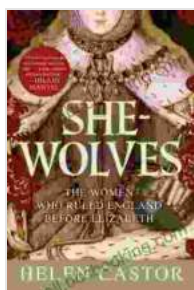
In addition to the well-known queens of England, there were many other women who played a significant role in the nation's history. These women,

often forgotten by history, were just as powerful and influential as their more famous counterparts.

One such woman was Aethelflaed, the Lady of the Mercians, who ruled England from 888 to 918. Aethelflaed was a skilled military strategist and a wise ruler who expanded the bFree Downloads of her kingdom and defended it against the Vikings. Another forgotten queen was Matilda of Scotland, who was the Queen of England from 1100 to 1118. Matilda was a learned and pious woman who played a major role in her husband's reign.

The women who ruled England before Elizabeth I were a diverse and remarkable group of individuals. They were queens, empresses, and consorts who played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's destiny. Their stories are filled with triumph, tragedy, and inspiration. They are a testament to the power and influence of women throughout history.

The book "The Women Who Ruled England Before Elizabeth" tells the forgotten stories of these extraordinary women. It is a must-read for anyone interested in English history, women's history, or the history of power.



## She-Wolves: The Women Who Ruled England Before

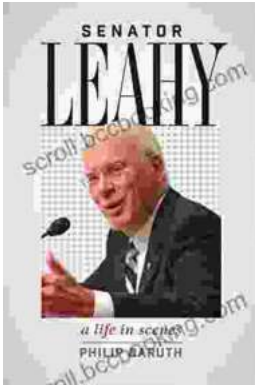
**Elizabeth** by Helen Castor

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